IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

S. S. Lesson for May 4

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THE CHURCH ENLARGING ITS FELLOWSHIP

LESSON TEXT—Acts 8:1-8, 14-17, 25.
GOLDEN TEXT—Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.—Acts 8:4.

In a time characterized by materialism and commercialism, it is refreshing to consider the manner in which the early church spread the gospel far and wide. They did this without thought of personal gain or advantage, and with a sacrificial devotion to Christ which caused men and women to be willing to die for Him, and, what may sometimes be even harder, to live for Him in the face of persecution. Here was loyalty that puts expediency to shame, and sacrifice of self for Christian principle which needs emphasis in this "soft" age.

The enlarging of the church is revealed by our lesson as being

I. By Death or by Life (vv. 1-4).

Stephen, one of the deacons, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost" (6:5), was stoned because of his testimony for Christ. He became the first martyr of the church, leading the line of those noble men and women who down to our own day have been ready to die rather than to deny Christ. The day may not be too far distant when some of us may face that decision. Are we ready?

To every one of us who is a Christian comes the necessity of living for Christ. Some in Jerusalem died (v. 2), some were imprisoned (v. 3), but notice that the others were scattered abroad, like brands from a fire, carrying the message of God's Word. They were not afraid, but on go into hiding, nor did they "adjust" their message to meet the circumstances. They went "everywhere preaching the word."

While persecution may sometimes hinder the spread of the gospel, it also frequently stirs the zeal of God's people to preach and teach. Is there now in the midst of the havoc of war and persecution the good news of salvation is spreading in lands which hitherto knew it not. Are you and I doing our part?

II. By Preaching That Brought Joy (vv. 5-8).

Philip, a layman (the first of many great evangelists) and a Jew, went to the despised Samaritans with the gospel, and God so signally blessed his ministry that a great revival broke out and "there was much joy in the city."

What we need is more gospel preaching and teaching. You laymen, please note that you are not to wait for the preacher to do it. Spread the good news yourself. And note too that it is to be preached to all people, even to those whom we might (humanly speaking) be tempted to despise, either by reason of race or position in life. It was a glorious thing that happened to Philip in Samaria. It can happen again, and it can happen here."

III. By Fellowship That Brought Blessing (vv. 14-17).

When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened in Samaria, they were overjoyed, and sent two of their leaders, Peter and John, to encourage and counsel with the new converts.

Such fellowship always brings blessing, and in this case it was unusual blessing; namely, the gift of the Holy Spirit. On this occasion God thus gave these new Samaritan believers the blessing and power of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to bind them in fellowship to the church in Jerusalem. Jew and Gentile believers in Christ thus were joined in one communion of love and faith.

IV. By Broadened Vision That Brought Action (v. 25).

Peter and John had completed their work in Samaria and were on their way home to Jerusalem, but what they had seen had given them a new vision. They acted on that vision, and as they passed through the villages of Samaria they "preached the gospel" with joyful hearts. What an interest and stir they must have created!

It is one thing to see an opportunity and a need; it is quite another to do something about it. For that, one needs determination of purpose. As Lloyd George put it, "You cannot fight a winning battle with a retreating mind." These apostles were reaching out for God, and under His leadership and blessing, into the villages of Samaria.

The Christian church needs more real consecrated action; that is, in the name of Christ and for His glory. The business man who conducts his secular affairs with enthusiasm and dispatch, often forgets all that in his church duties. He advertises and seeks new markets for his goods, but is not interested in the outreach of the church. He can get excited about the Rotary Club or the Lions or what not, but never develops the slightest enthusiasm about the Lord's work. It goes without saying that such a "picture" is all out of focus. Let's make it right. Vision? Yes, by all means. But also action for God.

Poles Moving Earth 20 Feet

Swing From North to South And Back Again, Observed.

NEW YORK.—The United States has a north and south motion that sometimes causes the whole country to travel as much as 20 feet in one direction or the other in 14 months.

Literally, the City of Washington, where this movement has just been verified by 24 years of observation by the United States Naval observatory, changes its latitude by that much in some of the 14-month periods.

The change is a swing from north to south and back again. The cause is a newly established wobble of the earth's poles. The evidence is reported to the American Astronomical society by William Markowitz, of the naval observatory.

The nature of this evidence suggests that the entire sides of the earth are similarly swinging.

Circuit in 422 Days.

This new polar motion is entirely different from two long-known motions. One of these is the precessional shift, by which the North pole describes a large circle in the heavens every 26,000 years. The other motion is a small circle caused by the moon's pull.

In both these motions, the earth swings with the pole. But the new motion is made by the pole itself, within the earth, like a stick, set upright in a tub of water but with its top waving around in a small circle.

Actually this motion in the pole, or axis of the earth, is an ellipse. The pole completes one circuit each 422 days.

As latitude is measured from the pole, the Washington change can be explained in two ways. One is that the pole is moving within the earth. The other, and more literally exact explanation, is that the sides of the earth sag and rise a little, rhythmically, like the shirt of a fat man might push up or down over his middle.

There are various theoretical explanations, all based on certain established facts. One concerns the weather mostly.

May Get Heavier.

Siberia being a huge land mass thrust far to the north can conceivably get heavier with ice during the winter. At the same time there is a high-pressure area over Siberia—that is the air above that part of the globe is heavy. This high-pressure area coincides roughly with Siberia's winter.

These extra weights might cause one side of the earth to sag a little, temporarily. Presumably, at the same time, opposite areas would be moving in an opposite direction, to compensate.

Expansion of the earth, and contraction—a phenomenon which has been verified by astronomers—might have some influence in the sagging.

One point in Markowitz's report greatly interested astronomers. This was that the latitude changes only within fixed limits and that Washington always comes back to the same mean latitude.

To astronomers that is important evidence that the whole continent is not drifting. One theory of the formation of the continents is that they were originally a single land mass, and that parts of the mass separated and drifted apart to form the present continents. The striking similarity of the shore contours between the eastern Americas and western Europe and Africa suggested this continental drift theory.

What's Happening in National Defense

THIS WEEK IN DEFENSE

Secretary of State Hull, speaking in Washington, said 'evidence has been piling up for several years which makes it perfectly plain that one group of powers actually does have designs both upon the new world and upon the principles, the possessions, and the way of life that are ours.'"

Secretary Hull said 'were the control of the seas by the resisting nations lost, the Atlantic would no longer be an obstacle—rather, it would become a broad highway for a conqueror moving westward."

Navy Secretary Knox, speaking in New York, said 'what we all see is an America gradually becoming encircled by hostile military powers . . . openly joined together in a pact they do not hesitate to say is aimed at us alone." Mr. Knox said if Germany should establish herself in Africa where submarines, Ships, and bombers 'could substancially cut off from all commerce from South America," the Monroe Doctrine would be 'a scrap of paper."

Mr. Knox also said 'we must fight ultimately unless we find, and put in effect, measures that will enable Britain to do our fighting.'" He said Germany would be defeated if U. S. war supplies and food reached England; . . . 'we shall be beaten" if they do not. Secretary of State Hull also said aid to Britain 'must reach its destination this . . . Ways must be found to do this."

Asked to comment on the speeches of Mr. Hull and Mr. Knox, President Roosevelt told his press conference they reflected his opinion. The President also said that the neutrality patrols, established after the outbreak of the war to warn against aggressors' ships that might come near the Western Hemisphere are being extended as the war comes closer. He said they will be extended to the seven seas if necessary to protect the Western Hemisphere. Mr. Roosevelt said the patrols were not convoys.

Aid to Democracies

The Navy released to Great Britain, under the Lease-Lend program, 20 small, fast torpedo boats announced discussions are under way regarding a program for the construction of additional small craft for Britain in Canadian shipyards.

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister King of Canada jointly announced a program to coordinate Canadian and American defense production. Each country will provide the other with equipment it is best able to produce.

The President told his press conference the war could not be decided by a single sea victory, a defeat in the Balkans, or even the Eastern Mediterranean. He expressed confidence that Britain could hold out with American aid and counseled the public against moving from rich zones to deep despair because of day by day reports.

Agriculture

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard said in a radio speech that . 'the stake of farmers in this world conflict is as great or greater than that of any other group. . . . If the Nazis win, we might as well kiss our export markets for farm products goodbye. . . . I think it's time the farmers and the people of this country got excited about this world situation . . . Nowadays ostrich notions don't last very long.'

Mr. Wickard said as far as export crops are concerned, the principal problem is still one of surpluses, 'but so far as pork, dairy products, eggs, tomatoes, and some other foods are concerned" this is not true. After the war, he said, a large part of the world will be looking to the U. S. for food. 'Whether we can give it to them may decide how much weight the U. S. will have at the peace councils."

Production Progress

The Army received delivery on the first tank produced at the new Chrysler plant at Detroit, a building a quarter of a mile long constructed in 70 working days. The Charlestown (Indiana) Ordnance Works, world' largest powder plant, able to supply the needs of an army of more than one million . . was opened one month ahead of schedule.

Commerce Secretary Jones, speaking in New York, said the progress of the nation's defense effort is 'better than good . . but . . no matter how fast defense production goes, it will be fast enough to meet the need. . . ." William Batt, of the Defense Production office, also speaking in New York, called on industry 'to do much more than it is . . . . . without looking to see whether the other fellow is doing his . . . . (share .."

Labor Supply

Wage-Hour Administrator Fleming, speaking in New York, said there are still more than six million unemployed not now being used in the defense effort. Gen. Fleming said these unemployed can be put to work by the addition of an extra shift in the nation's factories. He said a recent study showed industries could add a shift, and still make larger profits even after paying extra for overtime.

Labor Disputes

OPM Associate Director Hillman, speaking in Washington, said that most industrial disputes are settled without any stoppage. . . . 'every one hundreds of labor contracts expire and are renewed without shocking even a ripple." He said 'at the present moment the industrial realtions picture is far more favorable than at any other time of equal industrial activity."

The Bureau of Mines reported that because of the labor dispute in the soft coal industry, only a two weeks' supply was on hand.

The U. S. Conciliation Service announced he settlement of 27 additional labor disputes.

People of Athens watch Germans take over city in silence.

Plunkett Announces Candidacy

Moss A. Plunkett, of Roanoke, has announced his candidacy for election as Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia subject to the Democratic primary. Mr. Plunkett, an attorney who has not previously sought public office, enters the race against State Senator William M. Tuck, of Hi ifax until Plunkett's announcement the sole candidate for lieutenant-governor.

Mr. Plunkett received his law degree from the University of Virginia, and has served eight years on the Roanoke County School Board and two years as legislative chairman of the Virginia Education Association. He is a member of the board of the Southern Electoral Reform League, advocating abolition of poll tax payment as a prerequisite to voting.

Lindbergh resigns commission as reserve officer.

Skyline League to open schedule here Saturday.

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DISCREDITED

There are Americans on whom the public has completely soured.

The first is John L. Lewis. Never have we admired Mr. Lewis personally, because we saw in him the elements of a ruthless dictator, but in the past we have conceded him to be a zealous advocate and fighter for militant labor. But now Americans want no part of John L. Lewis. We believe he is playing Hitler's game of dividing America and that it will be easily conquered. And we see no reason why the true Americans in the CIO should not rise up righteous wrath and unloose the tentacles of the Lewis Octopus from around the defense of the Stars and Stripes.

Secondly, there is that queerest of all living Americans, Charles Lindbergh. America once lavished affection upon Lindbergh because his daring spirit accomplished a feat until that moment considered impossible. Later our hearts went out to him in sympathy when his infant son was kidnapped and killed. For his pioneering in the air, we hailed him as a hero. For his reward, America gave him a fortune and great prestige. But what did Lindbergh do with his greater opportunity? The record is a tragic story. Satisfied with the din of applause, he went to Europe and became immersed in its disillusionment. He turned against the nation which had lifted him from obscurity to wealth, and swallowed, hook, line and sinker, the notion that progress of all worthwhile things in life has stopped and the lichens of barbarianism will surely crush the flower of democracy. So, forsaking the pioneering field in which he made his name a household word, he became the apostle of defeatism, the crier of appeasement. We are truly sorry when our idols and heroes unmask. But, this is a grim world, and there is no time to mourn those who have lost hope.

Colonel Lindbergh's big mistake is in trying to convince America that Britain's CAUSE is not just. We remembered that Lindbergh himself was a 100 to 1 shot when he flew the Atlantic!

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The Struggle For Freedom

These are dark days for the democracies. The war machine of Hitler is smashing its way through the Balkans, causing a deepening of the gloom now covering more than half of the world. Any defeatist might have an excuse for throwing up his hands in despair.

But it is not a time for despair, neither for us in this country, where no bombs have fallen, or in other lands which have felt the shock of battle. Hitler can be counted on the soul, the body is worthless and deserves to be discarded. To despair and admit all is lost, that the barbarian is the victor and that there shall be no more freedom under the sun is an appalling thought. What then will the flame hold if we are to lose what little courage and faith entrusted to us for the stay upon earth?

It is not to be conceived that Hitler has won his objective. It is true he has conquered countries but he has yet to conquer the people in those countries and he has not beaten England, and England, no matter in what direction Hitler proceeds, will rise up to meet him and do battle with him wherever he may desire.

We should ponder these things, in this free country of ours where no war ruins have yet to break in. We should seriously ponder the question of how we shall react and what courage we shall display when the time comes for us to face the issue. Let us realize once and for all, that a world with Hitler on the loose is untenable, and that such words as justice, peace and truth would be meaningless. One will not find the word defeatist in the Bible, but later on Hitler will have his place in our lives when we rise up in defense.—Trenton Times.

THE RUSSIAN BEAR

Many subscribers ask us what we think Russia will do. They wonder if Russia will fight if Germany goes into Turkey. Our guess is that absolutely no help can be counted on from Russia in any circumstances whatsoever. Russia will never fight Germany's legions. Not on, one thing is certain, Hitler go into Turkey any day he so desires, but he can occupy any part of Russia itself.

Let's accept the grim fact that if this war is won it must be won by the Anglo-Saxon, English speaking people of the world, with an overwhelming, starving force of air and sea power. The chips are down. Only two powers are left in the way of Hitler's march to world dominion: Britain and America. We even discount any help from South America.

If the victory is won it will be forged in in the shops and factories of America.

Who Said It First?

"Verify your quotations" is old advice, but the advice is sometimes difficult to follow. In the case of many famous sayings, it is hard to find out who really said them first. There are many instances of striking phrases which have been attributed to prominent persons who had really borrowed them from others.

For example, Lincoln's reference to a 'government of the people, by the people, and for the people." Almost identical words were used by John Wycliffe in the 14th century, and by Robespierre, Thomas Cooper, Joseph Story, Daniel Webster and Theodore Parkeer Long before Lincoln uttered them at Gettysburg.

Even the Golden Rule, which appears in two forms in the New Testament, was expressed by Confusius five centuries before Christ, and by other ancient teachers.

Perhaps the most catchy phrase ever uttered by the late William Jennings Bryan contained his 'crown of thorns and cross of gold" metaphor, which is credited with securing his nomination for the presidency in 1896. It has been and still is generally believed that the phrase was original with Bryan, but the Congressional Record shows that it was spoken by Congressman Samuel W. McCall in a speech delivered months before.

No one whose words have been appropriated by another could have shown a better spirit towards his imitator than McCall showed toward Bryan in this instance. When questioned about it later, McCall said:

'Yes, Bryan borrowed it from one of my congressional speeches. And probably I stole it from somebody else."—Peninsula Enterprise.

Oakville Personals

Oakville, April 29.- Those visiting in the home of W. C. Bass Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Burton Dupy and daughter, Rachel Lee, of Tuga, and Mr. and Mrs. George Bass, of Appomattox.

W. C. Bass spent the week-end with his daughter, Mrs. Bernard Wooten, at Ford, Va.

Miss Lila Wilcox spent the week-end with Miss Mary Bass.

Miss Catherine Doss spent the week-end in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Turnes and attended the birthday dinner Sunday of J. A. Turnes and Ben Lucado.

Thelma Doss spent the week-end with Mrs. C. W.-Robertson.

Mrs. J. R. Doss spent Sunday with Mrs. T. K. Moore.

Miss Ella B. Lewis spent Sunday with Carter Martin at Fort Washington, Maryland.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lucado spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Lucado.

Mrs. B. A. Horsley, of Lynchburg spent the week-end with Mrs. J. W. Childers.

Mrs. J. W. Scott, of Richmond, spent Monday night with her daughter, Mrs. R. E. Smith.

Miss Thelma Webb spent the week-end in the home of Cohron Gilbert.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Paris and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Paris and children and Sidney Nowlin called in the home of Mrs. Thorpe Sunday.

Carlton Moore continues ill.

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Gardner Sunday, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Walker Cavethorne were: Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Roope and Mrs. Corbitt, of Lynchburg; Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Phelps, Allen and Calvin Phelps, Mrs. H. L. Lokhandt, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wells and daughter, Mrs. and Mrs. H. O. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Alonza Martin, Mrs. Otho Wells and son, Mr. and Mrs. Winston Martin, Mrs. Maxine Story and children, Misses Bernice Harvey and Hazel Moore, Claude, Emery, Samuel and Doyle Martin.

Stonewall

Stonewall, April 30.- The Y. W. A.'s of Hebron Baptist church held their regular monthly meeting in the home of Mrs. W. A. Irving. The topic for the month was 'An Urgent Gospel— Challenge to true Discipleship.'

Mrs. J. A. Stratton has returned to her home here after visiting her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shaeffer in New Haven, Conn.

Mrs. W. A. Perrow and children, Ora Lee and Robert, visited the former's father, R. L. Moore, last week.

Charlene Thomas, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Thomas, is ill with pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Stratton and daughter and Miss Edna Adcock, visited friends in Roanoke Sunday.

Mrs. O. R. Turnes attended the Methodist district conference in Bedford last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Carson and family, of Rocky Mountain, visited their mother, Mrs. Irene Carson, last week.

Tom Roy Burnette is a patient in the Lynchburg hospital, where he had his tonsils removed last week.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Chick and daughter, Rachel, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beard in Appomattox.

Misses Katherine and Lily B. Davidson and Crawford and Tom Davidson spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Roach, at Emporia. They were accompanied home by Miss Annie T. Davidson, who had been spending some time there.

Mrs. Emory Martin, of Lynchburg visited relatives here last week.

Miss Nellie Turnes, of Gladys, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Turnes.

Mrs. Elliott Nash and children, of Appomattox, and Miss Hazel Perdieu, of Lynchburg, spent the week-end in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Jennings.

Clean-Up! Beautify our town!

Dovell Asks Change In Term

Ashton Dovell, of Williamsburg, speaker of the House of Delegates and a candidate for Governor, believes that the term of Virginia's Governor should begin one year in advance, instead of one year after, that of the President of the United States. Speaking in Richmond, Mr. Dovell declared that his proposal 'will give the State a better opportunity to counsel with a new Federal administration' in the fixing of the latter' s policy.

Mr. Dovell also stated that he opposes the poll tax as being responsible in large measure for apathy on the part of voters, so that 3 1-2 per cent of the population can control an election.

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